

Polek, Jim

From: Keener, Bill
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 2:42 PM
To: Whitson, Amelia; Rao, Kate; Mogharabi, Nahal
Cc: Bromley, Eugene; Smith, DavidW; Greenberg, Ken; Stuber, Robyn; Zito, Kelly
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: Venture County Star re: Santa Clara County Waste Water radioactivity

Amelia, just so I am clear – EPA would not normally be informed of this sort of local wastewater exceedance and subsequent cease & desist letter, but in this case, we happened to be sent the cease & desist order because of the unrelated emergency explosion/action at the Santa Clara Waste Water treatment plant, correct?

Bill Keener
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Phone: (415) 972-3940

From: Whitson, Amelia
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Rao, Kate; Mogharabi, Nahal; Keener, Bill
Cc: Bromley, Eugene; Smith, DavidW; Greenberg, Ken; Stuber, Robyn; Zito, Kelly
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: Venture County Star re: Santa Clara County Waste Water radioactivity

Hi Kate, Bill, Nahal, et al.,

You're right that the Los Angeles Regional Water Board is probably the best agency to respond to this – they permit both the City of Oxnard (NPDES permit) and SCWW (non-NPDES waste discharge requirements for groundwater discharges and statewide industrial stormwater general permit coverage). Cris Morris (Cris.Morris@waterboards.ca.gov) and David Hung (David.Hung@waterboards.ca.gov) at the LA Water Board have been our main contacts on this.

That said, here's what we do know / what the Regional Board has already communicated to us: SCWW is locally permitted by the City of Oxnard to discharge wastewater to Oxnard's treatment plant. SCWW is a categorical industrial user under the Centralized Waste Treatment category, subject to the pretreatment standards at [40 CFR 437.47](#) and technically-developed local pretreatment limits designed to protect the treatment plant from pollutants that would interfere with treatment processes or result in violations of Oxnard's NPDES permit. I don't know if Oxnard has developed a local pretreatment limit for Gross Beta radioactivity that SCWW violated, or if the CDO was issued simply because Oxnard found that they caused them to violate their NPDES permit limit.

The Regional Water Board forwarded us a number of documents related to SCWW last week (some relevant ones attached), including a notice of violation issued by Oxnard to SCWW for the gross beta violations. Hope this helps, and please let me know if there's anything else you need.

Best,
Amelia

Amelia Whitson
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Phone (415) 972-3216

From: Rao, Kate
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 1:05 PM
To: Bromley, Eugene; Whitson, Amelia
Subject: FW: Press Inquiry: Venture County Star re: Santa Calra County Waste Water radioactivity

Hi Eugene/Amelia – Can you respond to this inquiry or provide more information from an NPDES stand point?

Thanks. Kate

Kate Rao
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From: Keener, Bill
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 12:38 PM
To: Mogharabi, Nahal; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Rao, Kate
Cc: BANDROWSKI, MIKE; Rosenblum, Shelly; Zito, Kelly
Subject: Press Inquiry: Venture County Star re: Santa Calra County Waste Water radioactivity

Folks, can we figure out a response on this? In reading the attached cease & desist letter from Oxnard, it seems possible EPA may not be in the loop, rather the water board might be the best agency to respond – but we should be able to at least say whether we are notified of this sort of exceedance. Thanks.

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From: Wilson, Kathleen [<mailto:KWilson@vcstar.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 12:12 PM
To: Keener, Bill
Subject: Press Inquiry

Hi Bill,

I am working on a story about a high level of gross beta found in wastewater in Oxnard, Calif., which was traced to waste that the city receives from the Santa Clara Waste Water Co. The company near the town of Santa Paula, Calif., has been in the news because a truck exploded last week causing injuries and evacuations. I know of no connection but am looking at the company's record.

I am trying to get educated on what the high concentration of gross beta means. I have been told that the EPA only permits 50 parts per million and this was measured at 4,400. Could someone call me to inform me on what your regulations allow and the significance of what was found? Any implications? Were you informed of this?

My deadline is 5 p.m. Monday (today).

Thanks for your assistance.

Regards,

Kathleen

Kathleen Wilson
Staff Writer

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